

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-10 /096 W

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R 251124Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4999

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4184

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT--OCTOBER 23-25

1. SUMMARY: MAIN SYRIAN INTEREST FOCUSED ON CONFERENCE OF ARAB FRONT PARTICIPATING IN PALESTINE REVOLUTION (AFPPR) WHICH MET OCT. 22-23 IN DAMASCUS. PARTICIPANTS AGREED UPON CONVENING GENERAL ARAB MASS CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. DOMESTIC

MAJOR SYRIAN INTEREST FOCUSED ON AFPPR CONFERENCE HELD IN DAMASCUS OCT 22-23 (DAMASCUS 4179). PARTICIPANTS CASTIGATED SINAI AGREEMENT AND LEBANESE CRISIS AND AGREED TO CONVENE IN NEAR FUTURE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD TO PLAN COMMON ARAB STRATEGY TO OPPOSE AGREEMENT.

3. FOREIGN:

OCT 23 AL-THAWRAH REPORTED THAT EGYPTIAN MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

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BEGINNING TO EXPRESS SIGNS OF DISCONTENT OVER AGREEMENT.

OCTOBER 25 RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT AS SADAT PREPARED LEAVE FOR US ALL EGYPTIAN CITIES PUT UNDER MAXIMUM SECURITY CONTROL.

PRESIDENT FORD REPORTEDLY PERSONALLY INTERVENED WITH STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS TO HASTEN SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS TO ISRAEL.

PRESS CONTINUED TO HIGHLIGHT ARAB AND OTHER FOREIGN MEDIA CRITICISM OF SINAI AGREEMENT.

OCT 25 AL-THAWRAH REPORTED THAT HAYKAL IN N.Y. TIMES ARTICLE CHARGED THAT AGREEMENT HAS CAUSED SPLIT IN ARAB UNITY AND INCREASED POSSIBILITY OF WAR.

POL-ALGERIAN LIBERATION FRONT JOINT STATEMENT DEPLORED DEFEATIST SINAI AGREEMENT AND CALLED FOR HOLDING OF GENERAL CONFERENCE TO COORDINATE ARAB OPPOSITION.

4. COMMENTARY:

AL-BAATH COLUMNIST OCTOBER 23 CHARGED AGREEMENT CAUSED SPLIT IN ARAB RANKS, REMOVED EGYPT FROM CONFLICT AND WAS PART OF IMPERIALIST PLAN AIMED AT LIQUIDATING PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

OCTOBER 25 AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST OPINED THAT AFPPR CONFERENCE PROVED ARAB MASSES HAVE NOT YET COME TIRED FROM STRUGGLE WITH ISRAEL. SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS GAVE "TRUE PICTURE OF FUTURE OF ARAB-ZIONIST CONFLICT, PICTURE WHICH NOT IN INTEREST OF SIGNATORIES TO AGREEMENT."
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